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MADRAS WAR REVIEW

A WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE WORLD WAR

VOL. V FRIDAY, AUGUST 25, 1944 No. 51

KEEP ON PUNCHING

THE Allies have won a great tactical victory in France, and when the opponent is groggy, that is the time to keep on punching — and punching him hard

WITH all of us resolutely performing our special tasks we can make this week a momentous one in the history of this war—a brilliant and fruitful week for us and a fateful one for the ambitions of Nazi tyrants

GENERAL EISENHOWER, on August 15

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[Note.—*The summary of news and comments contained in the* Madras War Review *generally relate to events and statements published till Wednesday, every week.*]

JAPAN AT BAY

"The world war has now developed into a conflict of exceptionally gigantic proportions. In all its recorded history mankind has never witnessed anything so massive in scale. Our Empire has also come to be confronted by national difficulties of unprecedented seriousness . . . Even the homeland of our Empire cannot be made secure against the encroachment of the enemy."

—General KUNISKI KOISO, *Premier of Japan, broadcasting on August* 8.

❖

AT THE MERCY OF HER ENEMIES

"The Japanese Navy which is the means of protection of the very life of Japan will enter into battle only in waters comparatively close to the mainland . . . Japan has but one combined fleet. Should this fleet be destroyed, her sea-lanes would be cut off and this would be tantamount to leaving the narrow strip of land that is Japan to the mercy of her enemies."

—*Tokyo Radio, August* 8.

❖

ONE GOOD REASON—

"More than a million of our troops are to-day overseas in the Pacific . . . the Hawaiian Islands are no longer a mere outpost. The Hawaiian Islands have helped to make possible the victories at Guadalcanal, and New Guinea and the Marshalls and the Marianas. The Islands will make possible future operations in China—make possible the recapture and independence of the Philippines, and make possible the carrying of war into the home islands of Japan itself, and its capital city of Tokyo."

—President ROOSEVELT, *broadcasting on August* 12.

❖

—AND ANOTHER—FROGS AND WEEDS

"I do not think that the Japanese have ever met with such a disaster as the one they faced in Burma. An Englishman and his wife came to see me in London and showed me a letter from their son at the Burma front in which he had said that the post-mortem examination of a dead Japanese soldier had shown that his stomach contained nothing but frogs and jungle weeds. This particularly shows the extent of the disaster faced by the Jap Army."

—Sir FEROZ KHAN NOON, *New Delhi, August* 15.

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VIVE LA FRANCE!

PARIS is free at last. The promise General de Gaulle made to the Consultative Assembly in Algiers three and a half months ago that the French Forces of the Interior "will participate with the great military effort of the French and Allied Armies" has been overwhelmingly kept. Millions of people all over the world will share with French men and women the joy which liberation of this beloved cultural capital of the world brings, and which has been their cherished hope for over four years. Paris will live again. France is rising like a warrior from sleep. The wonderful news will stir the hearts of patriots in the lands still submerged and will rouse all such friends of France and of the Allied cause to fight as stubbornly, relentlessly, heroically and as successfully as the brave people of Paris. It is an hour of victory and of supreme happiness for the French, but the battle will have to go on harder now than ever until the Nazi beast is laid low. In the words of General Montgomery: "The end of the war is in sight. Let us finish off the business in record time."

GERMANY'S RETREAT TO WORDS

BELIEVE it or not, Lord Haw Haw, braying as usual from Berlin, has been informing the world that all is well with Germany, that the Allied invasion of Europe is in accordance with high strategic German plans! The German Army is not really in peril, of course, its retreat and even its annihilation are part of the secret plans of the Fuehrer. Germany has stocks of secret V-weapons, says Haw Haw, and besides, Germany's war was predominantly one of ideology—and not a gross conflict of armoured might—a mental and not a material struggle of such unimportant things as battleships, armoured divisions, bombing aircraft; a war, in brief, not of guns and shells, but of words.

NOBODY denies the war of words, but all this tripe about ideology coming from the spokesman of the swaggering hooligans who rolled in armoured might and utter ruthlessness over small innocent countries is an amazing admission of the internal weakness confronting the Nazi militarists.

THERE are several reasons for this retreat to words by Germany, which are necessary in explaining the phenomenal and splendid super-blitzkrieg of our Armies in France. Chief of these are (1) our naval power, (2) our superiority in the air and (3) our moral strength.

Germany's Fatal Weakness

IT has been our naval strength which has enabled us to make colossal invasions, not only in the transport of men, ammunitions and supplies, but in the shelling of enemy ports, submarine bases and invasion coasts. From the ends of the earth distance has been no object since the defeat of the U-boat. There the hunter has become the hunted. As far back as November 1939, two months after Britain declared war, when President Roosevelt repealed the arms embargo which enabled belligerents to carry ammunition provided they could fetch it themselves, and pay for it—the cash-and-carry system—the navy came into its own. For, Germany had neither the ships nor the money. Hitler has limited himself to a continental view, to a German view, rather than to a world view. The world is mainly water but Hitler has all along been thinking in terms of huge land masses—of *lebensraum*—and thus attacked the huge land-mass of Russia. The Allies were wiser, and Churchill in consultation with the leaders of other Allied powers over two years ago laid careful plans which are now maturing speedily, plans which were based on shipping troops and equipment over the seven seas.

GERMANY'S navy about which the Germans themselves must be asking very awkward questions is bottled up more or less permanently in Kiel in the Baltic. The only battleships left (the *Bismarck* and *Scharnhorst* being at the bottom of the Atlantic and the Arctic Oceans, the *Gneisenau* dismantled and the *Tirpitz* crippled) are a couple of old tubs, while for the rest there are two heavy and four light cruisers, perhaps eighteen destroyers and an estimated 50 to 100 E-boats or motor torpedo-boats and possibly

an equal number of R-boats, mine-sweepers, mine-layers and motor gunboats with numerous miscellaneous craft and several hundred submarines. Hardly a formidable fleet to attempt battle with the huge armada of four thousand ships (among which were five hundred battleships alone) which enabled the Allies to land in Normandy. Of course, as far as the landings on the Riviera are concerned, eight hundred ships were sufficient, as German ships have long ago forgotten what the Mediterranean looks like.

The Scale of Allied Power

A belligerent which depends on secret weapons which fail to materialize and which when they do appear are of the nature of the flying bombs, these blindfold targetless rocketings, is in a very bad way. Germans may also be wondering what has happened to the *Luftwaffe* and Goering's pilots.

AS for the Allies, the scale and magnitude of their air attacks is mounting every day. It takes a mighty lot of aircraft to carry 14,000 air-borne troops, yet this was done, while at the same time the R.A.F. and the U.S.A.A.F. were flying four thousand sorties per day. Our Typhoons were largely responsible for shattering the disorderly 7th German Army trapped in Normandy. The Americans brought all rail communications around Paris to a standstill, blowing up hundreds of locomotives and many thousands of waggons and carriages.

THE entire Allied strategical combination of naval, air and land activity is a marvellously beautiful piece of consolidated manœuvres, each part of the attack, on land, sea and in the air, building up the picture of utter ruin and destruction which faces the Germans. While the encirclement of Nazidom goes full speed ahead, constituting a huge total blockade (made certain now that the Turkish gate is closed) the reserve supplies of oil and the internal communications, factories, docks and stores are being destroyed unceasingly in Germany and in the territories which remain within the German Reich. Trapped as they are the Germans will certainly put up a show as they scuttle from one point to another, but their doom is absolutely sealed, as that of Rommel's Army was when locked inside the Falaise pocket.

Moral Strength and Duty

FINALLY our moral strength. Our ideology differs from the enemy in so vastly important a sense, that ideology is hardly the right word for it. Ours is based on the fundamental principles of democracy, a term only viewed with contempt by those inflated barbarian Nazi rulers who drive home their ideas with the aid of the concentration camp and the torture chamber. The Allied idea of a progressive, constructive world is an idea won over by conviction and proved by practice. One thing is certain. Even if the Nazis will not learn, they will know that it is possible to keep promises, and that the Allies intend to keep the promises they have made to the peoples who have been trampled underfoot by the Nazi criminals. We shall liberate these peoples. The German leaders will also know that we keep our word when they understand the meaning of total defeat. The day of reckoning is drawing very near for the fulfilment of our pledges to the subjected countries. Criminals at bay fight hard, but our pledged word will be kept and with it the fate of Nazi ideologists.

RUNNING COMMENTARY

A Wonderful week for France At the momentous maturing of his two-year-old plans it was characteristic of Mr. Churchill to want to step ashore when the Allied landings on the South Coast of France were in progress. This young man of seventy has a spirit which inspires the world as the war goes on. He will probably get his own way as soon as the pockets of German garrisons in the south are cleared up. That is a minor reason for his remaining in Italy. It is more likely that the advances being more rapid than were expected—aided in no small degree by the magnificent Men of the Maquis—make possible further combined action on a similar grand scale. At the present rate of progress, it is only a matter of days before the Allies liberate the major area of France from the Estuary of the Seine right down to the Spanish border and the coast of the Mediterranean. The Germans are obviously very weak in Vichy France, and are retreating east of Paris presumably to rally their armies for the final struggle. It is rather strange that we have heard nothing at all about any Maginot or Siegfried Line. Probably loud talk of that will come from Goebbels!

At any rate French Forces of the Interior are rousing and rallying the long-enduring people of France, while General de Gaulle and General Koenig are there to direct the internal campaign. Bells are ringing wherever the French flag flies in celebration of the marvellous recovery of Paris. Marseilles is free and the freedom of Bordeaux and Lyons lie within sight. It has been a wonderful historic week for France and for the world.

* * *

Marking Time in Italy As part of the huge European struggle General Alexander's clever stratagem of pushing General Kesselring's army out of Florence into the big pocket of the Po valley in the Lombardy Plain—so euphemistically called the Gothic Line—is a factor of immense value to the Allies which eliminates this German army from being of any practical use as a delaying force in the carrying out of the victory plans of the Allies. How important the exquisite city of Florence was to Kesselring may be surmised from his desperate effort to hold up the Allied advance by concentrating five of his best divisions in the semi-circle of hills guarding the city. Angrily, in a typical Nazi spirit of revenge, the guns of the enemy with their barbaric shelling virtuously uphold the words of Goebbels: "the German wehrmacht has done all in its power to spare Florence." What General Alexander will do next is speculative. He may either press on and polish off the enemy on the plains of Lombardy, or may use Italy again

THE PROOF OF THE PUDDING . . .

as a springboard for the assault on the Dalmatian Coast. Marshal TITO's forces offer a brilliant opportunity for a move which would match the fresh invasion of France where the Maquis are giving so much assistance to the Allies. The least that we may expect in a connected united front against Germany stretching right across Southern Europe. Allied strategy in France is a brilliant example of a major military chess move. It is most probable that it will be followed by another big move on the chess-board of the European battle-front.

* * *

Russia Opens Offensive in Rumania

Like a boxer sparring, the Red Army has been trying out a few punches here and there to test the strength of the Germans. The Germans on the other hand are desperately and unsuccessfully trying to break through the Russian wall that separates their forces in Latvia from those in Estonia. But the Russians have pushed them back and have clearly the upper hand in this Baltic fight. The Germans are enduring great losses in men and materials. The Soviet Armies are reported to be making very good progress in the area north of Warsaw, while in the south further bridgeheads have been established on the Vistula. Warsaw is being slowly encircled, and with its fall there may be a spectacular drive to Danzig, by-passing and trapping another German army in East Prussia. This is one likely project. Still further south on this 700 miles front which is occupying so much of HITLER's forces, the Russians have opened an all-out offensive in Rumania where they have made remarkable progress, aided by the retreat of Rumanian armies and the acceptance of peace-terms by the Rumanian Government. At the eleventh hour Bulgaria has flung herself at the feet of the Allies, renouncing her treaties with Germany. These Balkan moves will further hasten the final defeat of Germany.

Allies in Burma Masters of Jungle Warfare

From the Burma front this week has come news of continued success. The heroic legion of men of all races and colours (of whom the Madrassis form a valuable section) who plod waist deep through monsoon floods and harry the broken fragments of Japan's luckless invaders have done a creditable job in clearing India of the last Japanese soldier. India is tactically free but Burma is still infested with a large force of Japanese. In the north several streams of advancing Allied armies are driving the enemy out of the great valleys which roughly run north and south. Everywhere, along the roads, railways and rivers, nothing remains but the remnants of Japan's boasted armies and garrisons, unfortunate myrmidons who, in the graphic words of the English soldier, have been living on frogs and jungle weeds. Thanks to our combined air forces our men are amply supplied with provisions. Here

too in this vital corner of the global war, the long arm of Allied air power is showering destruction on the communications and stores of the occupied territory of Lower Burma. We also hold one end of the vital Mytkina-Mandalay railway line, while the air bases in Burma which have been such a bold feature of the campaign, are more and more useful as the drive pushes down the Tiddim Road, the Chindwin, Kabaw and other valleys. While we have yet much to do we can claim to have the initiative and to be masters of jungle warfare.

* * *

Japan Feeling the Strain of War It is too early to say that Japan is knocked out. She is far from that. But the first blows have been struck and as the war in the west draws to its climax the Allies are able to punch harder at her inherent weak spots in her far-flung but loosely held territory. The war against Japan must be looked at in its entirety, and it is necessary to link up the Allied victories in the west to see how the deterioration of the German position coincides proportionately with a deterioration in the power of Japan. It is fairly clear that General MacArthur is preparing a major attack on the Phillippines from Halmahera. The bombing of harbours such as Davao will ensure that the Japanese navy if and when it appears, shall have no safe anchorage. Another part of the same war strategy is being conducted from Allied bases in China. The Japanese have tasted the bitter pill of daylight raids from super-fortresses in their cities of Nagasaki and Wakama on the island of Kyushu. President Roosevelt's orders to aircraft factories to concentrate entirely on the manufacture of super-fortresses, the record long-distance bombers, is bad news for quaking Tokyo and there is no doubt Japan is feeling the strain. The Japanese Government have had to explain something of the perilous situation to the people, for obviously when supplies run short with the cutting of the sea-lanes on which Japan's life depends, the people of Japan are going to be faced with a blockade on a scale unknown even to Germany. The vital fact to remember when considering, for example, the war in Burma or China is that it is one war against Japan, stretching from Burma and China to the Phillippines, the Indies and to Guam.

* * *

The World Security Conference— Probably the welcome but sudden developments of the war situation in Europe impelled Sir Alexander Cadogan to call for speedy agreement at the Conference on World Security which opened at Dumbarton Oaks, U.S.A., on Monday. If we can judge from the firm speeches made by the leaders of the United Kingdom Delegation and by the United States Secretary of State, Mr. Cordell Hull, Europe—and the rest of the world—in the period following on the cessation of hostilities, is not going to be left in the dangerous quagmire of incompetency and uncertainty in which it remained after 1918. This time the gravity of the situation is understood. The men who are meeting have this time a sense of responsibility and realism. They appreciate the importance of planning. The delegates are men in a determined mood. "The military defeat of the aggressor" Sir Alexander said, "must be made clear beyond all doubt, and most of all to the German people themselves, and those responsible for the wanton outrages that have horrified the civilized world must receive their just retribution. On that basis we may hope to build more securely for the future." Mr. Hull emphasized the need for the nations of the world to "maintain according to their capacities sufficient forces available for joint action when necessary to prevent breaches of the peace."

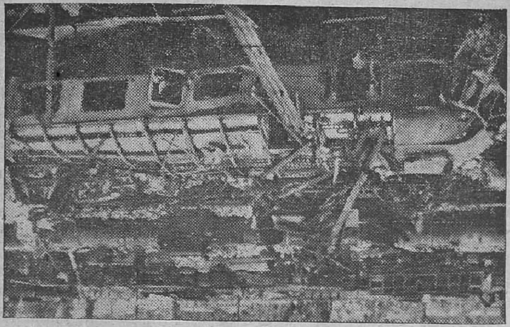
* * *

—And Its Momentous Duty Sir Alexander mentioned the "willingness on the part of what are at present the three most powerful States in the world to achieve some kind of world organization and what is more to achieve it soon." The Conference can have little faith in the kind of organization which the League of Nations represented. Something far stronger and on less national lines, and more in accord with the spirit that lives in the Allied unity of Nations at war is closer to the solution. Never in the history of the world have so many peoples been so drawn together on the basis of common principles as they are today and the representatives of the World Security Conference would do well to forget the pre-war aspect of world life, League of Nations and all, in framing the organization which is to be the

(Continued on page 9)

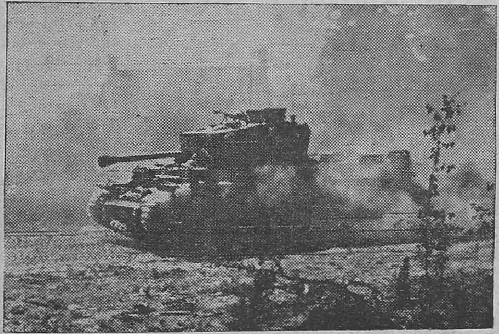
LIBERATION PINCERS
THE POSITION EARLY THIS WEEK

ALLIED MIGHT IN NORTHERN FRANCE



COMMUNICATIONS ARE SMASHED.—Rolling stock on the railway yard at Vire shattered by Allied bombing before the liberation of town.

THE TANKS GATHER.—Tanks lined up at the starting point.



THE TANKS HARASS THE SEVENTH GERMAN ARMY.—A Cromwell tank speeds up to the forward areas.

ONE ACT IS OVER.—Armoured Forces used in the assault on German Armies in Normandy.

PRISONERS ARE TAKEN.—German prisoners, captured in the village of Le Plessis-Grimoult on the slopes of Mont Pincon, pass a knocked-out German self-propelled gun.

PATROLLING.—Canadian soldiers patrol the streets of Bourbuebus, one of the towns to fall to the Allies in their advance towards Falaise.

GENERAL KOENIG

The general risen from the people who gave the signal to patriotic Parisians for the insurrection which liberated the French Capital.

TWO years ago, Bir Hacheim was just coming into the history of the second world war. And with the name of this insignificant water-point lost in a desert of sand and stones, there appeared also, for the first time, that of Brigadier-General Joseph Pierre Koenig, who now represents the French Provincial Government of Algiers with the Supreme Allied Command.

He was required by the Allied Command to hold on at Bir Hacheim for ten days. He had 3,600 men, made up of a varied assortment of French troops: men of the Foreign Legion, Marines, volunteers from the French Pacific Islands, and African colonial riflemen. There was an artillery regiment with twenty-four 75 guns. A few more 75s and some 47s had to do as anti-tank guns. Some days before, the Marines had been equipped with Bofors—which they had not had time to learn to operate—for anti-aircraft defence. There was not a single armoured vehicle.

For fifteen days the encircled brigade held on against Rommel's attempts to crush the garrison. On the fifteenth day came the order to retreat, and clearing a path across its own mine-field, it stabbed through the enemy lines, smashed the encirclement, and rejoined the main body of the Allies.

A quarter of its effective strength, 900 men, were left on the battlefield, but it brought back the wounded, three hundred prisoners, and a thousand soldiers of an Indian brigade which it had freed by a counter-attack. Koenig had rejected three successive ultimatums: one a personal note in Rommel's own hand. "The United Nations," said a special communiqué "ought to be full of gratitude and admiration for the first brigade of the Free French Forces and its gallant general."

NATIVE OF NORMANDY

Joseph Pierre Koenig, son of an Alsatian father, was born in 1898, in Normandy. In demeanour and temperament, Koenig is Norman with a vengeance, a very unusual type of Frenchman—for those who associate the French with the small southerner, black skin, black hair, voluble and gesticulating. Koenig is tall, built with the solidity which the old peasant stock still retain in France. Sparing of gestures as of words, he seldom betrays restlessness, nervousness, or haste. He might easily pass for an Englishman, a Scandinavian.

In 1915, at seventeen, he left school at Caen and joined the French Army for the duration of the war. By the Armistice he had won the Military Medal, the Croix de Guerre, and had been mentioned several times in despatches. He chose to stay in the Army, and carved a slow, hard, gallant career. France has a special Military Academy at which N.C.O.s study for promotion from the ranks. He took the course at Saint Maixent: once commissioned he went to Morocco, served in the Foreign Legion, traditionally reserved for keen officers irked by the dreary boredom of town garrisons.

He fought under Lyautey, and under Giraud in the Moroccan colonial campaign conducted by France against Abd el Krim. In 1939 he was still in the Foreign Legion. Forty-one years old, he had grown grey in the service without rising above the rank of captain. The brilliant team produced every year in Saint Cyr and Saumur barred the way to this ranker officer. Captain Koenig sadly spent the "phoney war" period with his unit, in a hopeless watch on the Italian Alpine frontier. At the beginning of 1940, Koenig had high hopes that one remembers to-day with a touch of irony; hastily his regiment was equipped to the last button, ready to embark for Finland and fight with the Finns against Russia. The operation was countermanded. But later the Foreign Legion embarked at Brest, and disembarked at Narvik.

RALLIES TO DE GAULLE

When the evacuation of Norway was decided on, the Legion was brought back to England, and immediately sent into battle in France. For three days Koenig and his company fought desperately behind the little low stone walls of Brittany.

The Wehrmacht broke into France with a might that seemed irresistible and certainly forced conviction on the classic military minds of the French High Command. Brought up on the same "kriegspiel," Keitel and Weygand in reality spoke the same language. The very rigidity of their game, played according to the same strict rules—an over-intelligent game that made no allowances for chance or for human beings either—compelled Weygand to give in with a gesture like that of a chess player throwing up the game when he thinks the end a foregone conclusion, thus elegantly sparing his opponent the necessity of forcing the checkmate.

In vain de Gaulle waited in London for the arrival of Reynaud and Mandel. Those whom de Gaulle saw arriving were just those Koenigs who would not make peace with a world so obviously doomed; who bluntly refuse to take a fact for granted because it is supposed to have been proved.

Henceforth, Koenig's own story is the reflection of the history of Fighting France: recruiting in the French camp in Great Britain throughout the summer of 1940, the ill-starred Dakar expedition, the rallying to de Gaulle of the French Equatorial African colonies, the hero-comic campaign in Eritrea, the fratricidal war in Syria.

In eighteen months, de Gaulle turned this old captain into a young general.

A MAN IN A KEY POSITION

Then comes Bir Hacheim. It was not a military victory in the popular sense. But it restored the French soldier, the man of France, though not yet French military genius.

In Bir Hacheim fate for the first time recast on a tiny scale conditions identical with those of June 1940. The part assigned to the handful of Frenchmen at Bir Hacheim should be almost as obviously hopeless as that of the armies of the Republic in June, 1940.

But it was not fate that dictated Koenig's scornful reply to Rommel's ultimatum. It was just that the moral fibre to say "No" is not dead in France.

One day history may decide the precise moment when Gaullism ceased to be only an incalculating act of faith; in any case, the deed of Koenig at Bir Hacheim was truly uncalculating. As witness his reply to an Italian officer who summoned him to surrender and whom he would not even see:—

"We are men who have lost everything: our country, our homes, our families. One thing only is left us: our military honour. Of that you shall not deprive us."

Koenig now represents the Algiers Committee with the Supreme Command and his mission carries with it the assumption of authority over all parts of France, as they are liberated in the name of the Provincial Government of Algiers.

He is thus in a key position. What he does will weigh upon the future of France.

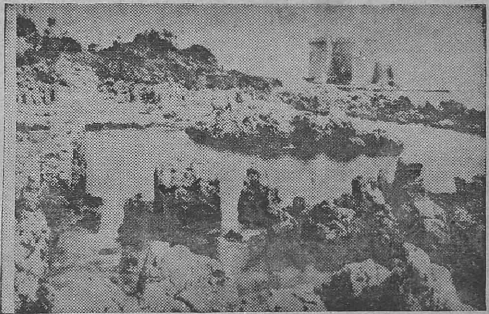
—*From* The Observer.

CAPTURE OF MARSEILLES
THE SECOND CITY OF FRANCE

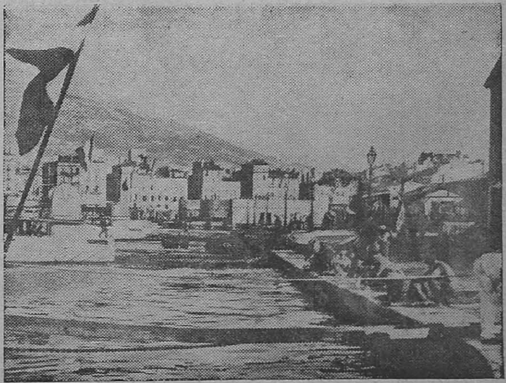
MARSEILLES is now liberated. This second city of France which fell into our hands on August 23rd almost simultaneously with the freedom of Paris will be of immense value to the Allies, as it is one of the biggest ports in the world.

Toulon also is within the grasp of the invasion armies, the suicidal German garrison being completely surrounded.

MARSEILLES.—A general view of the port and town.



On rocky coastlines like this, near Cannes Allied landings were made.



VIEW OF TOULON where German garrison is trapped.

U.S.A. CONCENTRATING ON GIANT SUPER-BOMBERS

The United States War Department announced expansion of production of its giant supper-bombers—the B-29s and the B-32s—designed to reflect "shifting emphasis in the air war." The phrase is seen here as indicating the War Department is planning vast offensives against Japan. The inability of the Luftwaffe to inflict expected heavy losses on Allied airforces is also given as a reason for the new programme, which will gradually cut back production of airplanes of all categories except B-29s and B-32s, and is expected to release 20,000 aircraft workers within the next 30 days. One hundred thousand more are expected to be released by the end of the year, with the slack taken up in more critical war and civilian programmes.

(*Continued from page* 6)

central world guidance tribunal for the settlement of the aftermath problems of war and the maintenance of peace. It is not so much a matter of a settlement by victor nations, as the settlement of world problems on the basis of democratic principles. In a leading article the London *Times* of August 8 aptly called attention to some of the difficult questions which the Conference must face and answer. "What military forces are to be kept available to meet such threats (of possible aggressors)? Will they be joint forces or several forces of particular nations?" The *Times* concludes "It is only on the solid foundation of practical achievement of proved capacity to 'deliver the goods' that the edifice of international security will be built." After this war security to rebuild a shattered world, to give full implementation to the Atlantic Charter and ROOSEVELT's Four Freedoms, to raise the standards of living throughout the world, including India, to plan our whole global living, to educate and socialize ourselves to be valuable citizens of a peaceful advancing world, to get out of the nationalistic ruts and meet on equality our comrades in other lands, is required. This serious but immense undertaking is no doubt in the minds of the men at the Security Conference. It is idle speculation to say more, but it will be interesting to see what does emerge.

CHURCHILL AND TITO MEET :

THE MEETING IN ITALY.—(Left to right) *Marshal Tito, Mr. Churchill and Dr. Subasic, Prime Minister of Yugoslavia, at the conclusion of the conference held in Italy.*

Wounded Partisan fighters in Yugoslavia evacuated to hospitals in Italy by the Royal Air Force. Here their comrades help the wounded to a Royal Air Force plane.

WE may be sure that the meeting between Mr. Churchill and Marshal Tito, leader of the Yugoslavs and his Prime Minister, Dr. Subasic, which was held in Rome on the 12th of this month, was one of momentous significance to the general strategy of the European struggle.

So much secrecy has of necessity to be thrown over the result of the conference, and has been kept ever since, that we may take it as pretty certain that all plans were laid for the development of operations on the Adriatic mainland.

The presence in Italy at the same time of other Allied chiefs, of Mr. Robert Patterson, the United States Under Secretary of War and Lieutenant General Somervell, Commander of the United States Army Services of Supply, makes it probable that plans for further moves may have been made.

There is already evidence enough this week of the military value of an army of Partisans in the uprisings of the French Forces of the Interior. The mountain guerillas of Marshal Tito have also now become an army of liberation, like their French brothers, the Maquis, and not only for the Yugoslav people, but for the whole south-east corner of occupied Europe.

Measures for the strengthening of that gallant army of resistance in Yugoslavia have already been put into practice for some time, in fact there would appear to be a regular ferry service by air—as the pictures on these pages show—between the Allies on the Italian side of the Adriatic and the Yugoslavs, over the one hundred miles channel of the Adriatic. From Italy the planes carry supplies and ammunition for the loyal patriots and returning they carry the wounded Partisans. The fact that this service goes on so successfully indicates the general weakness of the enemy.

The immense success attending the Allies in France, as well as the crushing defeats to Germany from the Red Armies and from the Allied Air Forces, the Governments of Rumania and Bulgaria making friendly approaches, and the withdrawal of all aid from Turkey would suggest that the time is approaching, if not ripe already, for a sweeping drive by the Allies through the Balkans.

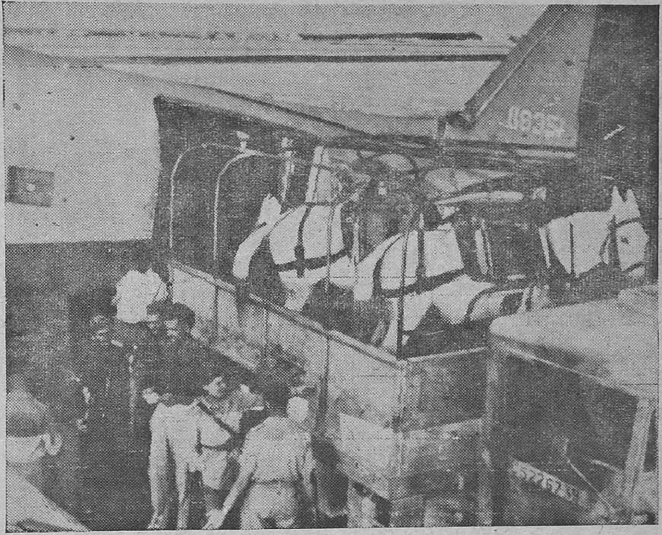
Hitler's world is cracking and crumpling, and with it goes all the quislings and tyrants and power-seekers

WHAT HAVE THEY PLANNED?

who thought to make a place for themselves at the expense of their peoples. Germany and her satellites and supporters grow weaker every day, and the hour is approaching when the word will be given for further open invasion of these prison-houses of Europe, until the ring of Allied Armies which is closing in on German militarism is tightly drawn and victory complete.

Yugoslavia would then obviously appear to be a centre for such a joining-up of forces, with the Russian liberating armies marching across to link up, and with the strength of the combined Allied Air Forces to plaster the pockets of enemy resistance. The countries of Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia especially the latter are extremely difficult terrain for large armies, but equally difficult for defence against modern assault.

Whatever may be we can look forward with expectation to the next big move in this terrific drama of events, and the confident smile of the leader of the Partisans bodes very ill indeed for the enemies of his beloved country.



MULES FOR MARSHAL TITO'S PARTISANS about to be loaded into a Dakota aircraft of the Balkan Air Force at an airfield in Italy.

PARTISANS NUMBER 300,000

IN 1941 Hitler struck at Yugoslavia. The resistance forces were small and disorganized. To-day Marshal Tito has an army of 36 divisions, besides bands of Partisans carrying on irregular warfare.

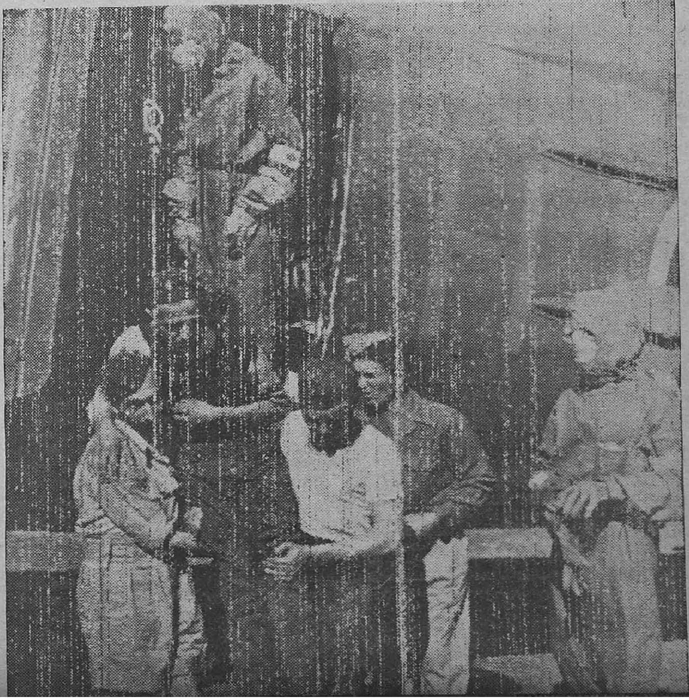
A correspondent reports how Marshal Tito, with a fifth of his men, not even equipped with rifles, his guns mostly of light calibre and originating mainly from captured German units, and without tanks or anti-tank guns, has organized his army.

Each Liberation Army division numbers between 3,000 and 5,000 men and is supported by partisan groups numbering from 25 to 50 men.

This National Liberation Army is up against 19 enemy divisions, says the correspondent, six of them German, six of them made up of Fascist Croats (Ustaschis), six of them Bulgarian, and one composed of White Russians under a Quisling General, Vlasov.

The same correspondent reveals that Tito now has 300,000 troops.

Wounded Partisans, evacuated from Yugoslavia in daylight by the R.A.F., being assisted from the aircraft by other Yugoslavs.



WHAT NAVAL SUPREMACY MEANS

TO THE ALLIES

HOW NAVY ASSISTS LAND OPERATIONS

BRITAIN'S FLOATING ARTILLERY MADE INVASION POSSIBLE

By PAUL WEST

ON July 14, 1943, four days after the Allied landing in Sicily, the following dialogue was broadcast by the Deutschlandsender radio station:

Reporter: "Your position, then, was already under heavy fire from the naval guns?"

Gunner Schulze: "Yes, at the start we did not even know what it was—these sudden explosions. It was difficult to imagine that the enemy could already have landed such powerful arms."

This dialogue, which might just as well have taken place on August 16, 1944, is of historical significance. It shows that the simple German soldier from the country was taken by surprise, that he had not anticipated the possible use of the Navy in land operations.

To-day, all the world knows that the Allies' naval forces can most effectively exercise the functions of land batteries. The floating artillery first of all shatters the coastal fortifications, then gives the soldiers ashore tactical support in storming the beaches and finally blasts a way for the troops into the interior of the country by demolishing further belts of fortifications and broadening up infantry and tank concentrations, by shelling lines of communication and even by direct intervention in land battles.

These are the new functions of the Navy which were most carefully studied and developed during the war, first by Great Britain alone and subsequently in conjunction with her allies.

Italy was attacked with the assistance of over 800 bombardments by naval guns. From January 1, 1943, to February 22, 1944, the Royal Navy alone shelled the enemy coast on 716 occasions.

SOME COMPARATIVE FIGURES

That was only the prelude to the part the Allied navies were to play in the landings in France. Most people have no notion of the fire power of a battery of naval guns. Take, for instance, a heavy cruiser, armed with 8 eight-inch and 8 four-inch guns. The weight of shells of the eight-inch guns per minute amounts to 5,568 kg. and that of the four-inch guns to 2,024 kg. This means a total fire power of 7,592 kg. per minute. Larger cruisers still, armed with 12 six-inch and 12 four-inch guns, can develop a fire power of 8,480 kg. per minute. Heavy destroyers of the Tribal class can fire 2,177 kg. of shells per minute, while the guns of the modern battleships H.M.S. *King George V* and H.M.S. *Howe* have a fire power of well above 15,000 kg. per minute.

By way of comparison, let us consider the fire power of a German infantry division. The artillery regiment assigned to a division consists of four sections and each section of four batteries. This makes a total of 12 batteries of 4 guns each, i.e., 48 guns altogether. Forty of them are 10·5 cm. (4·2 inch) guns capable of firing a weight of 15 kg. of shell at a firing speed of six shells a minute. The remaining eight are 15 cm. (6-inch) guns, with a weight of ammunition of 43 kg. per shell and a firing speed of five a minute. The artillery regiment of a German infantry division, therefore, can fire a weight of 5,320 kg. of shells a minute.

This is only 70 per cent of the fire power of a British heavy cruiser, 62½ per cent of the fire power of a cruiser of the next largest class and a third of that of a modern British battleship. A squadron of two heavy destroyers of the Tribal class and one lighter destroyer has roughly the same fire power as a German artillery regiment.

GERMANS REALIZE TOO LATE

It was announced that on D-Day the assault fleet included 640 pieces of ordnance with a fire power of 2,000 tons per 10 minutes. In the same space of time a German artillery regiment would be able to develop a fire power of not more than 53 tons. In other words, the fire power of the 80 Allied warships concentrated off the Normandy coast on D-Day corresponded to the fire power of roughly 40 German infantry divisions.

The preceding figures will give some idea of the weight of shell that was rained on the German coastal defences before a single Allied infantryman set foot on French soil or a single gun had been landed.

Events have shown that what Mr. Alexander, First Lord of the Admiralty, said in October, 1943, in a message to Washington on the occasion of the American Navy Day was not an empty boast: "Seapower can take the battle to the enemy and control of the sea gives us the paths to victory."

He was right. The German soldier on the Sicilian coast, in Normandy and in Southern France who was accustomed to dismiss seapower with a wave of the hand realised too late what seapower means.

TO GER

GERMANS LOSING

FORCED TO RISK

By A. J. Mc

ADMIRAL Karl Doenitz, German Naval Commander-in-Chief, is throwing all the naval strength he has left around cargoes which Berlin insist must be delivered to the coastal garrisons.

In the absence of big ships—he has nothing bigger than a few destroyers in any waters outside the Baltic—Doenitz now puts a conglomeration of small warships around every freighter and tanker moving out of port. A single tanker to-day may have as escorts as many as eight of nine E-boats, R-boats (mine sweeper escorts), patrol craft and auxiliaries.

But wherever German ships move Britsh naval and air strength is watching and waiting. The chances of a German coast-hugging convoy getting home unharmed are, in my view, now at least ten to one against.

German naval vessels flung recklessly around freighters and tankers are being put out of action at a greater average rate than Doenitz can stand for more than a few weeks.

LOSSES SINCE "D" DAY

Seven weeks after 'D'-Day, Doenitz has suffered in all waters attacks on no fewer than 231 naval vessels. Of these 95 have been sunk, 25 probably sunk and 111 damaged. The total is of course rising. German shipyards cannot hope to keep pace with such a high scale of casualties, a scale which amounts to more than four warships put out of action every day.

Berlin insists that ships must be used, whatever the dangers, to ease the strain on the bombed, battered and congested roads and railways. Supplies must be landed at coastal areas from Norway to South France, from North Italy to the Dodecanese. And Doenitz must obey.

Recently an urgently needed convoy of nine ships steamed off Heligoland. There was no fewer than 30 naval vessels around the German freighters. R.A.F. Beaufighters flew in to attack. Nearly every ship in the convoy was hit. Four of the nine merchantmen were torpedoed. Two of them were left in a sinking condition. Five of the 30 escorts were left burning fiercely.

The other ships were trying to sneak round the Frisian islands. More Beaufighters swooped on them. The ships

TO THE ALLIES AND THE ENEMY

MANY

FOUR SHIPS A DAY

LAST RESOURCES

WHINNIE

were taken by surprise. Two armed trawlers were attacked by torpedoes, rocket projectiles and cannon-fire.

Ten miles off Ostend, Coastal Command planes attacked two E-boats. Off Cap Dantifer, three German R-boats were severely damaged and one set on fire, when they were intercepted by the British Navy.

Never has a nation been more closely and successfully blockaded. Never was it more difficult for a nation at war to get urgently needed supplies to places where those supplies are needed than it is for Germany today.

OUTNUMBERED AND OUTCLASSED

There is little Doenitz can do but fling in his last naval resources knowing that they are outnumbered, outclassed and outgunned.

Britain's Navy has isolated Hitler from the rest of the world. With the passing of every day his supply problem become more acute. The greater the Allied advances on land the greater the necessity for war cargoes to be delivered at strategic points. Allied aircraft stem the radiation of supplies overland. Allied warships and aircraft stem the flow of supplies by sea.

This is total blockade. This is the Allied stranglehold which must sooner or later bring Germany into submission.

Some German Generals have shown that they realise the impossibility of achieving victory. They find themselves not only cut off from the storehouses of the world but inadequately supplied from their own storehouses.

Berlin admitted that North Africa was lost because the Allies had greater numbers of men and tanks. Those greater numbers were only available because the British Navy took them there.

When the history of this war comes to be written it will be found that seapower was the backbone of the whole Allied war effort. It will be found that Hitler had already lost the war the day he started it by thinking that with an unbalanced fleet he could compete with the sea power of Britain.

"Ever since the Allies landed in Normandy our hinterland has been under perpetual bombardment of an intensity never before matched. No concentrations could be built up within fighting distance of the front. By day our forces go to earth; by night they move."—*Christ of von Imhorn, German wor Correspondent in Normandy.*

TO JAPAN

MOUNTING ALLIED SEA POWER IN FAR EAST

MOVE TO CUT JAPAN'S SEA LINKS

By A. J. McWHINNIE

THE same blockading tactics which Britain's Navy has used so successfully in Europe are now to be employed in an increasing measure in the Far East.

The signs are now plain. The British grip on the Japanese communications between Sumatra and Rangoon is tightening. British naval strength in the Eastern waters has obviously been increased recently despite heavy demands for the liberation of France. And as the German Navy is worn down to impotence, so can even more British Naval resources be flung against the Japanese.

The Japanese will soon find themselves sandwiched and then strangled by mounting Anglo-American naval power, skilfully welded with air power.

So far there have been no signs of any big ships of the Japanese Navy—no more signs than the advancing U.S. sea-borne forces found in the Pacific. This refusal of the Japanese Fleet to accept battle should not be taken, however, as an indication that Japan has realised her weakness and that she may consequently soon sue for peace.

The Japanese no doubt wish the Allies would take that complacent view officially. As it is, the Japanese know only too well that month by month Allied naval strength in the Eastern waters gets greater and Japanese naval strength becomes proportionately weaker despite additions.

NEW BRITISH BATTLESHIPS

British naval dispositions are naturally made in secret, but it is plain enough that successes in the European zone must have released more strength for the East. Japan must also be aware, despite the theory of Hitler and other landsmen in the early days of the war that the battleship has been rendered redundant by air power, that Britain has welded sea power and air power so closely that she is still building new battleships.

Again, there is the strictest secrecy regarding the progress being made with the new 40,000-ton British battleships, the *Lion* and the *Temeraire*. There have been published hints that they are nearing completion. But the Admiralty in London makes no statement, although it is generally recognized that those mighty ships are being constructed with an eye on the special needs for fighting in the Far East.

Sooner or later, the Japanese fleet must fight—or Japan must surrender. All that the Japanese fleet seems to be doing now is averting a major action until the Allied lines of communication are at their longest and the Japanese lines of communication are at their shortest.

If that is so then the Japanese intend their fleet to fight only when the Allies are banging at the doors of Japan itself. And that moment may come, in my opinion, very much sooner than many people expect. It does not necessarily follow that the Allies plan to go island-hopping all the way to Japan.

And Tokyo need not hold too high hopes that Allied fleets will be weakened by the fact that they will be a long way from home when the big fight comes. Great progress has been made in carrying a train of supply ships with the Allied fleets—ships able to supply oil, food and repairs to ships many thousands of miles from their bases. The new technique developed since the war began is giving the warships their own travelling service stations.

GOERINGS GOOD TURN FOR I.A.F.

Tubby, always smiling, P/O Krishna Chandra, the meteorologist at the Ambala training school for Indian airmen and crews, got his qualifications by the kind permission of Reichminister Hermann Goering at the Tempelhof airfield, Berlin. The Nazi airchief would kick himself hard, if he knew how quickly and efficiently his pupil is putting met. boys through their course at Ambala.

P/O Chandra went to London in 1933 to study meteorology and all that goes with it, writes an Indian Air Force Public Relations Officer. He did well but what he wanted for a complete round off was a course at the Tempelhof airfield, Berlin. His English college fixed it, but when he arrived in Berlin he found his course was to follow one just taken by Japanese students. The Japs had made themselves most unpopular by taking forbidden pictures of the aerodrome and were packed off in a hurry. There were to be no more foreign students at Tempelhof.

Chandra argued, and was told to go and see Göering. He did, and had 20 minutes talk with the great man who sat in a special chair to bear his weight, and had a desk with a semi-circle cut out to allow him to get near it.

"He was quite pleasant, very impressive, talked to me about India, and knew what he was talking about," says Chandra. The Marshal gave Chandra a chance to take the course. He took it, and got the special qualifications which make him so useful at the moment.

MADRAS TROOPS' STIRRING TRADITIONS

MADRASSI soldiers have been emphasising anew the stirring traditions which services in past wars won for Southern India.

Since 1940 Madras troops with front line workshops have been playing a vital part as drivers and mechanics; they formed the transport backbone of at least two famous Indian divisions.

On the Burma front, a battalion of the Third Madras Regiment has come successfully through seven months' constant contact with the Japs; they have many dead Japs to their credit and a brave show of captured equipment and Jap insignia to hang in their regimental messes.

Madras troops have a notable military history. Lord Mornington, Governor of the Province in 1797, said of them, "with regard to the military establishment at Fort St. George, I do not believe there exists in any part of the world an army more distinguished for its high state of discipline or for the activity and gallantry of its officers."

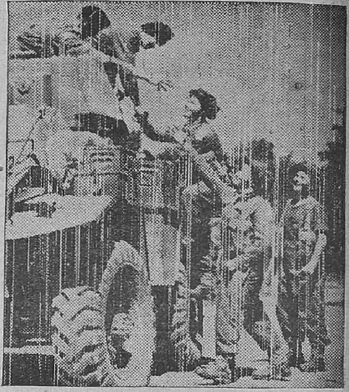
EVEN WELLINGTON WAS ASTONISHED

The Madrassis astonished Wellington, who before Waterloo, was soldiering with Indians "I cannot write in too strong terms of the conduct of our troops (all Madrassis)," he said after one action. "They astonished me."

Sir John Phillipart, who had plenty of opportunity to study the Madrassi, caught a glimpse of the future in 1823. He remarked there were no men whose mind was more consequent to study and that they were particularly good at the mechanics of soldiering. There was not much mechanics about soldiering in those days; to-day there definitely is, and the Madrassi is proving Sir John's words.

These men are among the quickest to learn their way about the internal combustion engine. In Italy they are doing splendid work, repairing and recovering damaged vehicles and their coolness under shell fire is a byword.

Madrassis to-day are still coming forward to fight. The spirit of cheery determination, so marked in the armies of the Carnatic in the old days, is abroad again on the plains and hills of Italy and along the jungle tracks of India's eastern front.



CROSSING OF ORNE.—British and Canadian troops link up after the British forced a bridgehead over the river Orne.

SESHIAH, THE CURIOUS VILLAGER

(*By* R.G.)

CANTO IV—*Second Instalment.*

Seshiah, on information bent
And with his country's good content,
Demanded of a Party man
The explanation of the plan
Whereby his leaders wished to right
The wrongs long past, or now in sight;
And very frankly did confess
He found it passing hard to guess
What was the true and real intention
When different leaders chose to mention
Quite different notions: for one said
That in no case might blood be shed,
But one (and he the President)
Said he would use means violent
And take up arms if enemy
Defiled his country's soil, pardie;
And yet a third, with words resplendent,
Said if the land were independent
It would with ease equip and train
And in full warlike trim maintain
Ten million fighting men: and so
It was quite difficult to know
Whether in fact they would dispense
With fighting armies for defence
And, lacking precedent historical,
Keep all their fighting metaphorical,
Relying on words and gracious gestures
And peaceful blokes in homespun vestures,
Or, throwing overboard their saint
As out of date and merely quaint,
Would gird themselves to fight indeed
And make not hearts but bodies bleed.
And much depended, said Seshiah,
On which loud leader was a liar:
For he, for one, would never choose
His life or property to lose
Because the country's government
With methods foolish though well-meant
Resisted the invader only
By bleating like a lost and lonely
Ewe lamb—and lambs at least would not
Invite their fellows to be shot.

The Party Member slightly squiggled—
You almost might have thought he wriggled—
And though in politics not queasy
Just for a moment seemed uneasy:
But then, remembering he'd been told
The politician's rule of gold,
That he is lost who hesitates
But safe he who equivocates,
He thus began: "Our Party's fit
For every task that's given it:
And in a war you'll find it ready
To keep the nation strong and steady
And make things tough for enemies
Whose only power in weapons lies:
We can keep Hitler at a distance
By dint of soulful non-resistance:
But if the people so insist,
We can as soulfully resist."

"MOST EFFECTIVE AIR WEAPON"

WHY THEY WERE CHOSEN TO BATTER RETREATING GERMANS IN NORMANDY

TWO months of battle experience in Normandy has shown that the Royal Air Force has the newest and most effective terrifying weapon yet produced for air fighting. It is the Typhoon, rocket-firing single seat fighter—Rockphoon to the Royal Air Force—which smashes Tiger and Panther tanks and similar tough targets with the accuracy of a divebomber but without having the vulnerability of that once vaunted plane.

Group Captain Paul Davoud, D.S.O., who commands a wing of Rockphoons, D.F.C., thickset 32-year old Canadian, recently revealed some of the plane's secrets.

Rockphoons are fitted with four rockets under each wing and the pilot can fire them in twos, fours, sixes or eights. It has four cannon as well.

BIGGEST TANKS JUST CRUMPLE UP

"Their accuracy is so great", Davoud said, "that German prisoners have admitted that they have been given orders when sighting a Typhoon rocket aircraft to get off the road, get under cover and stay there all day if necessary.

The planes work entirely at the call of ground troops leaving the Spitfires and Thunderbolts to cope with the Luftwaffe.

It has been found that Rockphoons are the best for destroying even the biggest tanks when they have been dug in to form strong-points. "Our men dive on them at all angles and from 100 to 2,000 feet or more", said Davoud. The effect is staggering. The tanks just break up or become infernos.

FRANCE.—German prisoners by the roadside watch tanks and infantry prepare to move forward.

AIRBORNE TROOPS DEPUTY COMMANDER.—Lieut.-Genl. F A. M. Browning, who has been appointed Deputy Commander of the new organization of the Allied combined airborne forces in France.

Mopping up in Normandy at Le Beny Bocage.

TASK FORCE No. 58

A REVOLUTIONARY NEW WEAPON OF SEA POWER

IN THE PACIFIC .. IN THE INDIAN OCEAN .. OUR NAVAL MIGHT GATHERS

By MAJOR GEORGE FIELDING ELIOT.

THE record of Task Force No. 58 in the Pacific is a demonstration of the way in which we have evolved a combination of air and naval might specially adapted to the problem of carrying on a broad, continuing offensive at great distance from home bases over a wide expanse of sea.

The most striking single fact about Task Force No. 58 is its ability to keep going. For over a month it has been in action on a broad front. Between June 10 and July 16 it has carried out six major attacks in the Pacific some 6,000 miles from the continental United States and within 1,500 miles of Japan proper.

Its first action was by carrier-based bombers and fighter planes, together with naval gunfire, against Saipan, Rota, Guam and Tinian, paving the way for landings.

Three days later, thousands of miles northward, the enemy bases of Bonin and Volcano islands, 500 miles from Japan, were heavily hit to neutralize their usefulness as bases for enemy counter-attack and as links in the chain whereby reinforcement might come to the Saipan defenders.

Four days later, westward of Guam, Task Force No. 58 beat down an attack by massed Japanese carriers launched against it and the invading fleet under its protection. Carrier fighters and anti-aircraft fire wiped out 402 attacking planes. The following day carrier groups from Task Force No. 58 pursued the fleeing Japanese force that attempted the earlier air strike. The planes sank at least two carriers and two tankers; dozens of other ships were damaged.

On June 23 Task Force No. 58 struck Pagan Island, in the northern Marianas, keeping the links between Saipan and Tokyo cut. On July 3 Task Force No. 58 hit Bonin and Volcano islands once more, smashing enemy destroyers, supply ships, harbour installations and shore fortifications.

All this time naval units participated in the reduction of Saipan's defences by naval gunfire, guarded transports and supply ships operating off shore, kept a continuous flow of reinforcement material going on the beaches.

The duration of these attacks indicates not only that we have the kind of naval force Japan has not dared challenge in fleet engagement; it means we can make constant use of the seas we command and have the mobility and endurance in a fleet that makes it a new kind of naval weapon.

Besides the staying power of Task Force No. 58 there are several other elements making it formidable. One of these is its range—not only the distance it can obtain from its own bases but the range of seaways it can include in its sphere of effective operation.

In the days it has been at sea it has attacked widely scattered points demonstrating speed and mobility never before seen in large battle fleets.

Its versatility is another characteristic. It has been used against shore batteries, surface vessels, airfields, and against massed air attack. It has destroyed ground installations and shipping, supported landings, covered transports. During all its varied engagements it has been prepared to meet the Japanese fleet.

New principles of naval organization and use have gone hand in hand with improved construction to reduce the vulnerability of our ships. Along with their tremendous increase in effectiveness as a striking force has gone an increase in defensive power.

Task Force No. 58 is not merely a thing of steel, iron, guns, planes. It is a result of independent, imaginative thinking and utilization of bitter lessons, and a daring willingness to explore innovations and modify old concepts. It is a product of seamanship as much as engineering.

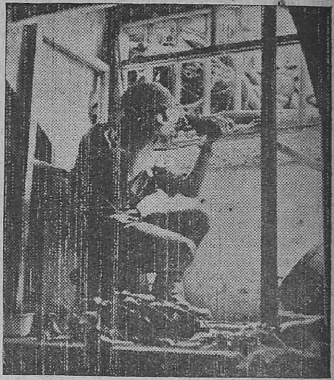
The fleet is no better than the men who command it. In the kind of war we are waging in the Pacific our naval achievements are possible by wide co-ordination over a vast front of all elements of military strength.

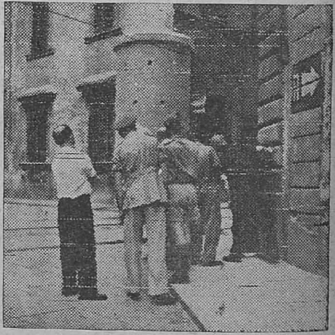
Task Force No. 58 was covered in its operations by American, Australian, New Zealand and Dutch fighting men who are in action against the Japanese in the South Pacific, the raids on Palau and Truk from the south contributed to the success of No. 58.

So did the consistent offensive waged against vulnerable communications of Japan's sea empire by Allied submarines and planes.

It is the whole integrated complex of United Nations' power exercised against Japan that is reducing her to an island empire without sea power and a foe without hope of victory.

—*From* Contact.





FLORENCE

Pictures show: *final scenes immediately prior to capture of Florence.* Lower photo shows: *crossing of Arno.*

INDIAN SAPPERS LED THE WAY ON LEDO ROAD

AS the Japs retreat into Burma and the frontier roads are reopened the new supply lines to push the war still farther east come into their own again. Few are more famous than the Ledo Road, along which United States trucks are now lumbering with rations and ammunition for the North Burma forces.

But few of the American soldier-drivers who use it realise the debt they owe to the Indian soldier-engineers who laid the foundations for this great war lane two years ago.

The story of the Ledo Road is in fact a story of pioneer effort by British and Indian engineers; as long ago as March 1942, Indian sappers were hard at work on it. For nine months they were alone in the area.

While the Ledo Road is to-day a wholly American project its present advanced state owes much to Indian engineers, tea planters and their labour force, to Indian Army Pioneers and to the Indian States, whose labour units have worked heroically in this area.

Early in 1942 it was decided to push a road through from Ledo towards China. Assam tea planters collected their own labour and recruited thousands of coolies.

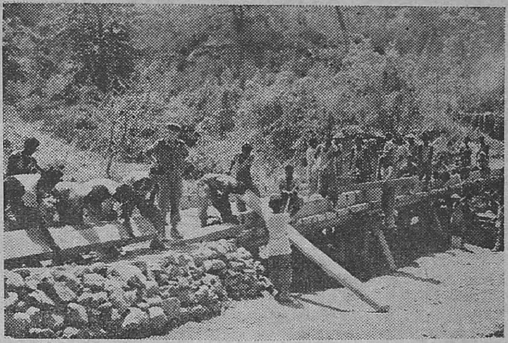
In March the first large party of an Indian mechanical excavating company of the Indian Engineers arrived with their road-making plant from Quetta. From then on, until the monsoon and the then doubtful strategic value of the road put a stop to constructional work, the engineers were engaged in a grim struggle with nature at its "untidiest" and the elements at their worst.

From Ledo the first 20 miles across the plains are a sea of mud for six months of the year. So thick is the jungle that visibility is often reduced to five yards; great trees laced with creepers and giant bamboos shut out the sun. These obstacles, together with malaria, leeches and poisonous insects, made the sappers' task one of the most trying and unenviable in the world.

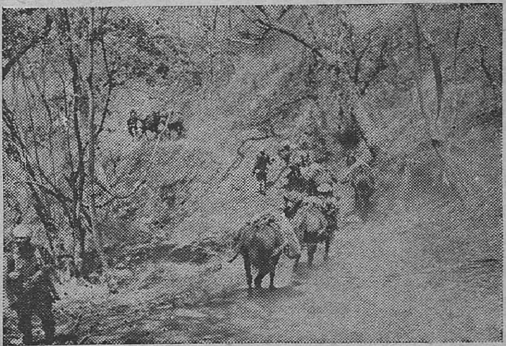
Courage and endurance of a high order were called for. The Indian sappers were not lacking in those two virtues, especially when they began cutting a road on the dangerously steep hill sections.

When the monsoon finally stopped the work the Indian sappers spent six months building airfields in Northern Assam, which enabled the *Usaaf* to give supplies over the "hump" to China.

They resumed in December 1942 when American road construction units began to arrive. The Indians remained in the lead as they had gained valuable experience in cutting through the jungle and working on precipitous hill-sides. By the end of January last year, when they had reached the Pangsao Pass, they had paved the way for a highway down which Stilwell's men marched to success against the Japs in the Hukawng Valley and beyond.



Madrassis constructing a wooden bridge.



Typical jungle road.

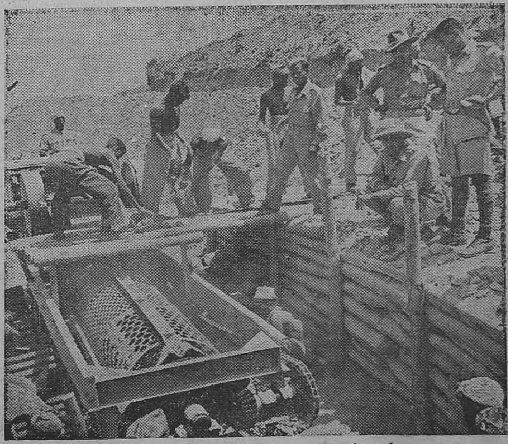
WAR ON MALARIA

EARLY in the campaign on the Indo-Burma front the Army found it had to contend not only with the Japs but with the monsoon and malaria. To defeat malaria, the hidden menace which struck relentlessly at night and wrought havoc among front-line troops, prompt action was vital if the Army was not to be further crippled by this insidious wastage of man-power.

So anti-malaria units came along. Senior medical officers, experts in malariology, were called on to prescribe the best and most effective treatment to carry out the official behest to "stop this malaria."

The advice of two engineers, one in the Irrigation Department, Government of Burma, and the other formerly with the Ouse Drainage Board in England, was sought and about November 1942 the great anti-malaria drainage scheme was begun. An Indian works section of engineers and a total of 4,000 labourers busily engaged over a period of four months.

To-day Manipur Road base is comparatively free of malaria. From a malaria rate of 40 per thousand and even higher per day there has been a substantial decline.



Working a stone-crusher near an air-strip.

WAR DIARY

BRITAIN AND GERMANY

16TH AUG.—Flying bombs were over southern counties in England and caused damage and casualties.

"The flying bomb may be only a forerunner of far more terrible instruments of destruction which will be hurled hundreds and even thousands of miles" said the Secretary of the United States Treasury, Mr. Morgenthau.

Last night R.A.F. bombers attacked Berlin. About 2,000 bombers attacked 21 Luftwaffe headquarter control stations and airfields in Germany. More than 1,000 American heavy aircraft attacked military objectives in Germany to-day.

17TH AUG.—Flying bombs continued to attack Southern England.

Last night over 1,200 Allied bombers attacked Berlin, Stettin and Kiel.

18TH AUG.—Last night R.A.F. bombers attacked Mannheim.

19TH AUG.—After a lull of about 20 hours more flying bombs raided Southern England including London area. R.A.F. attacked flying bomb launching sites in Northern France.

More than 1,000 R.A.F. bombers attacked Berlin, Bremen, Cologne, etc.

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THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE ATLANTIC

16TH AUG.—Mr. Morgenthau, Secretary of the United States Treasury, in a broadcast said last night "There can be no peace on earth—no security for any man—woman or child on earth—if aggressor nations like Germany and Japan retain any power to strike again at their neighbours. It is not enough for us to say 'We will disarm Germany and Japan' and hope they will learn to behave themselves as decent people. Germany and Japan must be kept disarmed—and let us not forget that eternal vigilance is the price of liberty."

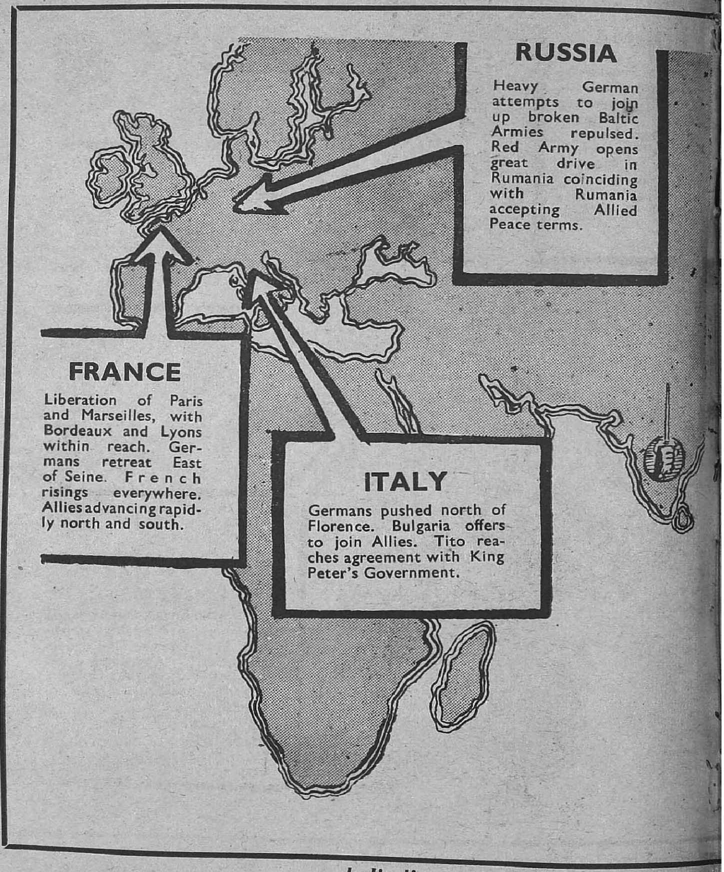
17TH AUG.—President Roosevelt returned to the White House after his 15,000 mile Pacific trip. He said at a press conference that Allied troops would drive in and occupy Germany and Japan even should resistance collapse short of the enemy border.

18TH AUG.—President Roosevelt stated that he was going to confer with Mr. Churchill soon. He added that general understanding had been reached between Russia, Britain and the United States regarding the occupation of Germany.

19TH AUG.—President Roosevelt announced the sending of Major-General Patrick Hurley and Mr. Donald M. Nelson on a mission to China to discuss military and economic problems.

20TH AUG.—27,000-ton aircraft carrier 'Antietam' and two powerful 30,000-ton cruisers were launched at Philadelphia. The United States Under Secretary of the Navy, Mr. R. A. Bard said at the launching "This is the largest launching at one time at one place in navy history."

THE WORLD WA



India lies at the heart of this Global wa

21ST AUG.—The International Security Conference began at Dumbarton Oaks. Mr. Cordell Hull and Sir Alexander Cadogan addressed the delegates.

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INDIA, BURMA AND CEYLON

16TH AUG.—Allied troops continued their advance south of Taungni and reached the village of Thaiwagon.

17TH AUG.—The Japs have been entirely driven out of the Manipur State. The 14th Army troops were two miles inside Burma.

18TH AUG.—Japs abandoned their covering positions on the Sittang track. On the Tiddim Road Allied advance continued.

19TH AUG.—The Hon'ble Sir Feroze Khan Noon conveyed the following message from Mr. Churchill to members of the Viceroy's Council.

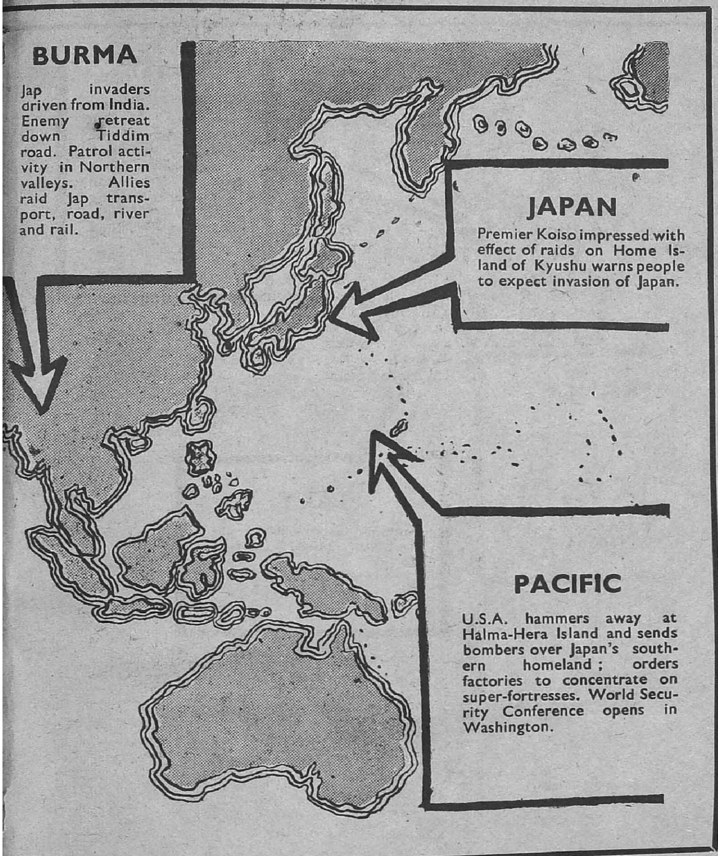
"I should like to ask Sir F. K. Noon to convey to his colleagues the grateful appreciation of the War Cabinet of the great contribution India has made to the common cause both in the field of supply and in the feat of arms of her fighting men during the five years of war."

The Allied forces drive towards Mandalay along the Mogaung-Mandalay railroad continued in spite of adverse climatic conditions. In the Kabaw valley, units of Kachin Levies were engaged in heavy patrol actions.

20TH AUG.—There was continued patrol activity in the Kazu area and along Nam Tabet river. There are no organized Japs left on Indian soil.

21ST AUG.—Fourteenth Army troops occupied Khuaivum. There was extensive patrol activity in the Kazu area.

HIS WEEK'S NEWS



ainst all fascist tyrannies on all fronts.

RUSSIA AND FINLAND

16TH AUG.—Russian troops captured Sandomierz, Pylva and over 100 localities.

17TH AUG.—Russian troops have entered the East Prussian frontier and in their advance have occupied 30 localities. Other places captured include Vysu and Rapin.

18TH AUG.—The war has crossed the borders of Germany and Germans were dying on their own soil. Russians captured Ahia and Valgemetsi and over 200 localities.

19TH AUG.—In Lithuania Germans launched fierce counter-attacks. Fierce hand-to-hand fighting took place in Warsaw. Soviet troops captured Alukste and over 100 localities.

It is announced that Soviet Air Force has destroyed more than 50,000 German aircraft during the 38 months of war.

20TH AUG.—Fierce tank battles raged in Northern Lithuania. Soviet troops captured more than 250 localities.

21ST AUG.—The Russians have launched an offensive on the Rumanian front. Fierce battles were in progress in the areas of Sodomeni, Helesteni, Potso Gloael, Jassy and south-west of Tighina. Russian forces evacuated Tukums. Over 150 localities were captured in the various sectors.

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ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

16TH AUG.—Allied forces crossed Arno in Florence and a little to the west of the city.

17TH AUG.—No major operations were reported.

18TH AUG.—Indian troops in Italy occupied Rosano.

19TH AUG.—Patrols were active on all fronts. Italian-based bombers attacked Ploesti in Rumania.

20TH AUG.—Allied troops occupied Gabrielli, Mondolfe and Pergola.

Count Carl Sforza, Minister without portfolio in the Italian Cabinet,, said that it would be in the interests of Western Powers if Italy retained her colonies.

21ST AUG.—Allied troops occupied Mondavio, Serafine and Palerno.

Mr. Churchill visited the Fifth Army.

King Victor Emmanuel arrived in Rome.

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VICHY, FREE FRANCE AND THE OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

16TH AUG.—The Allies were firmly established in Southern France and all initial objectives were taken. The Allied landings now extend over 120 miles from Cannes to Toulon. The Allied penetration has reached a depth of eight miles in some places. Cannes, the islands of Port Cros and Levant in the Bay of Hyeres and the mainland peninsula of Cape Negre have been captured by assault forces.

The Allies captured St. Malo, Tinchebray, Domfront, Ger, Lauferte Mace and Vassy. The Allied troops were in the outskirts of Falaise.

Mr. Churchill watched the landing operations off the French coast yesterday.

17TH AUG.—The Allied troops were closing in on Paris and were within 23 miles from Paris. Our troops have captured Orleans, Chatres, Dreux, Falaise, Toarn, Conde, etc.

The Allied forces continued their rapid advance in South France. The beach-head itself embraced 500 square miles. Among the more important towns in Allied hands were San Tropez, San Mastine, Saint Pagotael, Frijus and Le Lavandow, Le Muy, Le Luc Lorque and Collorbrieres.

General Sir Henry Maitland Wilson, Supreme Commander of the Allied forces in the Mediterranean, with Admiral Sir John Cunningham, Commander-in-Chief of the Mediterranean Fleet, visited the assault area.

The United States Acting Secretary of War announced that during the first two months of war in West France, the United States Army casualties totalled more than 112,000 including 16,000 killed.

18TH AUG.—The German losses in Normandy in wounded, prisoners and killed were estimated at 400,000. It was declared that the battle of Normandy has been won. Germany's power effectively to resist in France has been crushed. American troops have reached Versailles about 10 miles from Paris. Allied forces captured Vendone, Trun, Chateandon, Saint Calais, Authon, Fromentel, Barbow, Norvy, Mezidon, etc.

Allied forces have gone inland 35 miles from their landing point on the South French coast. The Allies occupied La Napoule, Dragingnan, Vidauban, Le Luc, Besse, Cuers, etc

19TH AUG.—An unconfirmed report stated that "Americans are in Paris," and that the "First American Columns are fighting their way through the suburbs of Paris and knocking at the doors of Paris. Allied troops occupied St. Julien Le Fancon and reached the outskirts of Cabourg, Dives Sur Mer and Dozule.

In South France, the bridgehead was more than 1,000 square miles. Allied troops were within six miles of Toulon. Allied forces occupied La Roquebrussane, Sollies Port, St. Gareoult, Brignoles, Vins and Salernes.

20TH AUG.—Allied troops crossed Seine. General De Gualle arrived in France.

Allied invasion forces in Southern France have crossed the Durance river in several places. They have made another 20 mile advance. Saint Massimin and Barzols were captured. Americans reached Castellane and Aix-en-Provence.

21ST AUG.—Americans entered the suburbs of Paris. Allied troops captured Livarot and Chambois.

In South France Allied advance continued. Allied forces occupied Valensole, Pertuis, Lerevert, Leseaux and Monte Caume.

It is revealed that Mr. Eden visited Normandy Front. General Montgomery, in a special message to all the troops in France has asked them to "Finish the business off in record time".

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THE NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

16TH AUG.—It is announced that "in view of the measures already taken by the Swiss Government to reduce Swiss exports to Axis Europe, particularly war material, the British and United States Governments have informed the Swiss Government that current facilities through blockade shall continue."

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THE FAR EAST

16TH AUG.—Halmahera was raided while naval and air patrols swept all the coast lines of Vogelkop, Dutch New Guinea and targets on New Ireland, New Britain and Bougainville.

17TH AUG.—Allied aircraft attacked Davao, Lolabata and Truk.

The Chinese Minister of War in a broadcast appeal to the Chinese in the South Pacific to assist operations of the Allied forces, said "your liberation is within sight."

18TH AUG.—Allied aircraft destroyed 23 Jap planes on Miti aerodrome in the north of Halmahera Island.

19TH AUG.—Allied planes bombed Kave, Lianing, Harokoe, Namlea and Boeroe. Allied forces made a new landing at Wardo on the west coast of Biak Island.

20TH AUG.—American Super Fortresses raided Fukoka, Moji and Kokura on Kyushu Island and Yarata area on Skikoku Island.

Chinese troops captured Laotungpo, near Lungling.

21ST AUG.—Super Fortresses again raided Yawata area.

The United States Navy Department announced that American submarines have sunk 19 more Japanese ships in the Pacific. American submarines have now sunk 706 Jap vessels since Pearl Harbour.

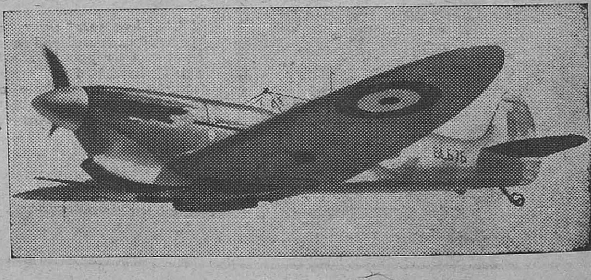
General MacArthur declared that the Allies have achieved air supremacy over Moluccas.

ROYAL INDIAN NAVY COMMISSION FOR NAVAL RATINGS

Ratings of all branches of the Royal Indian Navy may now be selected for commissions. Promotions will be direct, irrespective of age, to the rank of temporary sub-lieutenant, RINVR. and personnel will be commissioned in that branch of the service for which they are specially qualified. This means that after undergoing training as a rating and serving a period at sea, where personal attainments and qualifications are brought to the forefront, the present day Royal Indian Naval Rating is eligible to become a King's Commissioned Officer.

The Royal Indian Navy thus lines up with the Indian Army and Indian Air Force. Keen young men with a predilection for service at sea, who join the Royal Indian Navy to-day know that, provided they fulfil their duties, work hard and show keenness and qualities of leadership, the service presents unlimited opportunities. The patrolling of India's shores as guardian of her sea-borne trade is a job offering many openings and many trades; above all a quality of adventure that should appeal to the youth of independent spirit.

The Royal Indian Navy came into being in 1934 having passed through many stages since 1612 as the Hon. East India Company's Marine, The Bombay Marine, Indian Navy, Her Majesty's Indian Marine, Royal Indian Marine and in the course of these changes saw much activity and accumulated much history. The Royal Indian Navy has added to her historical laurels during this war having many outstanding feats of heroism to her credit. Since the commencement of war the Royal Indian Navy has increased both in tonnage and personnel for in all branches of the Royal Indian Navy recruiting has been good. The ports of India's coast line have produced good sea-faring stock who have proved their value, time and again. The Naval Rating irrespective of any particular branch upholds the traditions of the senior service by his attention to duty at all times in all weathers. He is a disciplined man, conscious of the part he is playing in the defence for freedom. A man who will one day have still greater responsibility.



SEAFIRE OF BRITAIN'S FLEET AIR ARM—Picture shows: *A Seafire—Fleet Air Arm version of the R.A.F. Spitfire—in flight.*

A GREAT RECORD OF BRAVERY
C-in-C's Tribute to Madrassis

The following message has been sent to a newly formed battalion of the Madras Regiment by General Auchinleck, Commander-in-Chief, India.

"I am very grateful to know that this battalion of the Madras Regiment has been formed and that it will take its place in the future side by side with other battalions of the Regiment. As the oldest regiment in the Indian Army the Madras regiment has a great record of bravery and of long and faithful service. Now that the regiment has been reformed and is again seeing service on the battlefields of Burma, I am sure that it will once more take its place on the right of the line and prove that the men of Madras are as good soldiers to-day as they were 200 years ago. I wish it luck."

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